A SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH
On

A Critical Study of Trauma of Partition in the Select Novels and Movies of Three Decades during and after Freedom Struggle

Submitted to

LALIT NARAYAN MITHILA UNIVERSITY

For the award of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

IN

ENGLISH

(HUMANITIES)

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Title

A Critical Study of Trauma of Partition in the Select Novels and Movies of Three Decades during and after Freedom Struggle.

INTRODUCTION

The end of British colonial control in India and the consequent establishment of two separate nations, India and Pakistan, led to the partition of India in 1947. Some of the Indian novels and movies tried to show the dark phases of life like oppression, suffering, and eviction faced by the migrants and immigrants during the partition of India. At the heart of the partition novels and movies lies the historical backdrop of the partition, which was one of the most horrible and terrifying incidents in Indian history. When British India attained Independence in 1947, the country was divided into two parts – India and Pakistan. Political and religious conflicts mainly between Hindus and Muslims were the cause of the divide. Mass migration, intergroup conflict, and the agonizing split of families that followed left a palpable impression on the collective consciousness that delves deeper into the cultural and ethical implications of trauma, particularly within the context of literature and human experiences. This critical approach has since become influential in literary studies, enabling new modes of reading, writing, and watching. Trauma theory is applicable not only to individuals but also to cultures and nations, making it a leading concept of our time. The idea of trauma affects the fundamental structure of the prevailing psychological theories within the realm of partition. Describing trauma, Cathy Caruth says that "it is not locatable in the simple violent of the original event in an individual, but rather in the way it was precisely is not known in the first instance – returns to haunt the survivor later on" (Cathy Caruth 1996: 04).

The tragedy of partition is a difficult-to-understand chapter in Indian history— it is subtly portrayed in the partition literature. It combines political science, history, conflict studies, and border studies. Partition literature remembers and revisits the complex dynamics of the

partition of India from various perspectives, including its political significance as well as its allegorical and symbolic meanings and consequences. The ultimate aim is to surpass and refute the state-recognized, one-dimensional, and standard account of India's partition when needed. The way that India's partition is portrayed in the literature highlights the diversity of human experiences. The notions such as class, gender, religion, exclusion, and the purpose of life are also explored, and the arbitrariness of a nation is contested. Once again, fiction forces us to consider the very nature of civilization itself, exposing the frailty of human nature and the depth to which we are prepared to descend in order to seem real.

Srijit Mukherji is the director of the 2017 Indian Hindi periodical drama *"Begum Jaan"*. *The* story centers on eleven sex workers, who, after India and Pakistan were divided, were refused to close their brothel. The movie, which is set in 1948, follows Begum Jaan, the madam of a brothel, as she fights to keep her personal space. Begum Jaan employs the prostitutes, who were abandoned by their families and reared by her. Sujeet and Rubina's love blooms in the midst of political unrest. The movie is a Hindi version of the highly regarded Bengali movie "Rajkahini". The historical drama movie, *"Pinjar",* was directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi and released in 2003 in Hindi language. It is set in 1947, during India's partition, and centers on Puro, a young Hindu woman kidnapped by Rashid, a Muslim man. They had previously forced the Rashid family to leave their house and thus left them traumatized. For the sake of revenge, Rashid's family forces him to get married to Puro, but after the abduction of Puro, her family is highly resentful. She is barely surviving as her brother and fiancé searching for her secretly. The movie shows how historical events have affected people, the human cost of division, and the tenacity of women.

The Novel, *Basti* by Intizar Husain explores the significant impacts on individuals and societies of India's Partition. As Zakaria, the main character, struggles with the loss of his native country and the psychological wounds caused by the brutality of partition, the novel explores themes like displacement, identity, and nostalgia. It also considers memory,

communal tensions, and the lingering trauma that affects generations in both India and Pakistan. The Novel is an English Translation of the highly regarded Urdu Novel ‘Basti’. Veera Hiranandani’s *The Night Diary e*xplores the themes of religious and cultural identities, rootlessness, nostalgia, and silence. Both novels delve into the complexities of human experiences during significant historical events, emphasizing personal narratives and the lasting impact of identity, trauma, and loss.

Begum Jaan's movie shows the themes of women's empowerment, resistance, and humanity at large amidst chaos. The film portrays the resilience of Begum Jaan, a brothel’s madam, and her women who defy societal norms and fight for their rights. It also shows moments of compassion, love, and sacrifice even in the midst of violence and tragedy. Whereas the movie *‘Pinjar’* shows relationships and conflict, resilience and sacrifices. The story focuses on the relationship between Puro, a Hindu girl, and Rashid, a Muslim man who abducts her. Puro’s struggle, her return to Rashid, and Lajjo’s kidnapping highlight the resilience and sacrifice during partition. These movies tell moving stories about love, human tenacity, and the effects of historical events on people. *‘Pinjar’* depicts the horrific experiences of women who were kidnapped during partition, while ‘Begum Jaan’ concentrates on empowerment within a brothel. These tales address the difficulties that women experience during difficult and turbulent times.

LITERATURE REVIEW

For the purpose of the present research, various books, research articles, and movie reviews have been studied. However, further study of research articles and books on the topic of research is needed. At the beginning stage of this research, some preliminary studies have been done by the research scholar.

Vidyapati S. Gotur in his article entitled *‘Communal, social and political perception of partition in “The Night Diary”* explores the profound impact of communal, social, and political perceptions during the partition of India. Deepa Gauri in her movie review entitled,

'Begum Jaan movie review: A Bold but Chequered Tale' claims that it is a big slap on the face of patriarchy and the way it explores the themes of eviction during partition and compares the character with the queens of the pre-partition era. Jagrit Chauhan in his article, *'Inscribing the Female body: Liminality, Hybridity and Gendered Violence in Pinjar',* states that the female body is shown as reduced to an object in society, and religious fault-lines are made apparent as they become the site of male dominance. Rituparan Roy in his research article, *'South Asian Partition Fiction in English Novel from Khushwant Singh to Amitav Ghosh',* explores the themes of the holocaust of women during partition, victims, and agents, the making of a nation's religion or language. Research by Humaira Z. Saeed entitled *'Persisting Partition, Gender, Memory and Trauma in Women's Narrative of Pakistan'* shows women's poor condition in Pakistan. Kuldeep Singh, Vandana Sukeeja, and JapPreet Kaur Bhanju, in their article, *'Narrative Trauma and Displacement: Veera Hiranandani's "The Night Diary"* explore the issue related to home-uprootedness, forced migration and various efforts that people make to cope up with its impact. Dr. Dipak Doley's article entitled *'Partition Trauma Nostalgia and Rootlessness: A Reading of Manju Kapur's Difficult Daughter' states how her identity is impacted by forced migration.*

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1) To address Trauma in Indian partition novels.
2) To explore the journey of the protagonists in the novels *The Night Diary* and *Basti* in relation to the themes of self-discovery and belongingness amidst conflict and displacement.
3) To explore the strategies of filmmakers in representing historical events and the construction of national memory of identity.
4) To highlight the problems of individual behavior of post-traumatic stress disorder

(hereafter PTSD) at the time of the partition.

METHODOLOGY

This research is mostly based on theoretical data, which is qualitative in nature. Relevant information through various primary and secondary sources like books, online and offline journals, scholarly articles, online and offline libraries, book reviews, published interviews, newspapers, and various other sources will be utilized for the purpose of the research.

HYPOTHESES

1. Is there any difference between the two novels selected for the study in relation to various aspects of socio-psychological trauma, and identity crisis of women and men?
2. Is there any similarity or difference in the treatment of socio-psychological trauma and identity crisis as they are depicted in the novels and movies?
3. Is there a comprehensive representation of PTSD in the novels and movies under study in relation to the people who underwent traumatic experiences?

SAMPLING

For the purpose of the research, the novels and movies mentioned in the section that follows as primary sources of data. The secondary sources will be the books having reference these writers' works and research articles, and movie reviews in journals, and magazines.

RESEARCH COVERAGE

The proposed work will cover a comprehensive study, analysis, and evaluation of the novels *'The Night Diary'* by Veera Hiranandani (2018) and *'Basti'* by Intizar Husain *(2012).* Besides these novels, the researcher will also analyse movies entitled 'Pinjar' (2003) directed by Chandra Prakash Dwivedi, and *'Begum Jaan' (2017)* directed by Srijit Mukherji. The proposed research will also explore the traumatic condition and post-traumatic stress disorder.

STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH WORK

The research work is divided into the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Dark Side of Patriarchy in Pre-Partition Society
3. Analysis of Unclaimed Traumatic Experiences in 'Pinjar' and 'Begum Jaan'
4. Analysis of *Basti* and *The Night Diary*
5. Conclusion
6. References

CONTRIBUTION

In this research, a critical analysis of the various aspects of traumatic experiences suffered by the people during partition will be done. Also, a comparison of the movies and novels in relation to the subject of study will be made, so that a comprehensive understanding of the socio-psychological aspects of the trauma of partition may be developed.

WORK CITED

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